

U3p 149-3

K. with preceding

A
DESCRIPTION
OF
THE LAKE OF KILLARNEY,
ILLUSTRATED WITH
TWELVE PRINTS
OF
ITS MOST INTERESTING VIEWS,
DRAWN AND ENGRAVED IN AQUATINTA,
By JONATHAN FISHER:
BEING
AN APPENDIX
TO HIS "SCENERY OF IRELAND."

DUBLIN:
PRINTED BY JOHN CHAMBERS, No. 5, ABBEY-STREET.

1796.

DESCRIPTION
OF THE LAKE OF KILLARNEY

THE FOLLOWING PRINTS
ARE THE MOST INTERESTING
AND ENLIGHTENED IN AGUANTIA
BY JOHANNAN FISHER.



AN APPENDIX

TO HIS SCENERY OF IRELAND.

PRINTED BY JOHN CHAMBERS, 2, GREEN STREET,
DUBLIN.

At the desire of several of the Subscribers and Purchasers of *The Scenery of Ireland*, the Author now publishes, as an Appendix to that Work, the following Description of *The celebrated Lake of Killarney*, illustrated in Twelve Views, taken from the most interesting points, to shew the extensive range of mountains and water which blend their beauties, to render it so universally admired;—and to make the Prints the better understood, the Author subjoins a plain description of the whole, and of the parts, separately taken,

THE LAKE takes its present name (being formerly called Lough-lane) from Killarney, a neat market-town in the county of Kerry, 143 miles distant from Dublin; and is the property, together with a large tract of the surrounding country, of Lord Viscount Kenmare.

The best season for visiting this Lake is from the beginning of June to the middle of September, being in general the months least subject to rain, of which this district, from the contiguity of the Atlantic Ocean, and the impending mountains, has a more than ordinary share; yet if the beginning of October is fair, perhaps then it appears in its greatest beauty, as in that month the arbutus (indigenous here) appears enriched by its glowing fruit.

The water is two grand divisions, called the Upper and Lower Lake, connected by a river winding through the mountains of singular picturesque beauty.—There is indeed a part of the Lower Lake almost enclosed by the peninsula of Mucrus, and some wooded islands, so that it appears a distinct Lake in itself, to which the name of Mucrus, or Turk, is usually given.

The Great, or Lower Lake, is about six miles in length, stretching east and west from Castletlough to the river Laune, and about three miles in breadth, from Prospect-hall to O'Sullivan's cascade.—The northern shore is not interesting, being composed of grounds rising from the Lake without any marked variety.

But the southern shore forms a bold outline of mountains, which give dignity and character to the scene; they are wooded as much as nature would seem to permit, the back part rising with savage grandeur, and discovering its bare ricks, which rise aloft in various forms, disdaining any other cloathing but that congenial to their elevated situation; displaying their cloud-caped tops in all the variety which their height and the neighbourhood of the great Atlantic naturally forms.

In tracing the south-side of the Lake, we first notice the mountain Gleng, which has two sides washed by it; for the water which issues from the Upper Lake first bounds its north-east side, and then turning, it pretty nearly at right angles forms the Lower Lake.—The sides of this mountain are well cloathed with wood from the water's edge; the surface is broken in some places by deep gullies fringed with trees; in others it assumes a bolder aspect, from projecting rocks, which give the most picturesque appearance, by the masses of light and shade with which they variegate the scene.

The mountain, called Toomish, joins Glens on the west, and is separated from it by a torrent, called (by the natives) Screech Stream, which, tumbling from a lofty rock into a woody dell, forms what is called O'Sullivan's Cascade;—it breaks out in one entire sheet of foam, and is interrupted in its fall by projecting ledges of rock, that separate it into three unequal stages, and, although confined, is a very beautiful scene, from its interesting accompaniments of rock and wood.

The remaining part of this range, extending to the river called the Laune, by which the Lake empties itself, is not marked by any striking feature, until you arrive at Dunlow Castle, under which this river takes a winding course through a pleasing valley, separating O'Sullivan's country from the estate of Macarthy More; then taking a westerly direction for seven or eight miles, discharges itself into the ocean at Castlemain Bay.

The north boundary of the Lake, though a tame scene of pasturage and cultivation, yet is not without picturesque advantages, for Innisfallen and Ross islands break the uninteresting line of the shore, and besides their use in the general composition, are themselves objects of great beauty; they are highly enriched with wood, which, in Innisfallen, is rendered respectable by age, casting an awful gloom over the mouldering ruin where monastic piety once found a refuge from the cares of this busy world, and where, treading its secluded glades, we feel the mind bend to a pleasing melancholy contemplation.

Ross Castle, as on a peninsula, appears connected with the whole, with its embattled towers rising

out of the tufted trees, to which the mountains on the south-side of the Lake, in some points of view, form the back ground, exhibiting one of the most magnificent effects in nature.

The number of islands in this Lake exceed thirty, which are dispersed along the level shores to the east and north; for to the south and west there is one unbroken sheet of water. A few of them lie unconnected, but the greater number is distributed into two irregular clusters on the opposite sides of Ross, which is the largest island in the Lake, and separated from the shore by a narrow gut, over which there is a bridge for the convenience of the castle. Innisfallen lies at a small distance to the westward; its shape triangular, and its sides, from promontory to promontory, are hollowed into bays. Rabbit, Lamb, Hern, with Mouse Island, and the rock called O'Donahue's Prison, complete the western group;—those which compose the eastern, though smaller, are more numerous, and, in general, finely fringed with evergreens, and serve as retreats for distinct tribes of birds that feed on the continent by day, and return at the dusk of evening.

Leaving the town of Killarney, about a mile distant from the shore, you pass by a bridge over the river Flesk, and see Cahirnane, the seat of Richard Townsend Herbert, Esq. (between you and the Lake) a place possessing great natural advantages.

From thence to Mucrus peninsula, which is the east boundary of the Lake. This side, though it attract not the eye at a distance, yet is very beautiful when examined near and in detail.—Its resplendent rocks, crowned with arbutus, appear in variety of fantastic shapes, several of them detached in the water, some forming an abrupt shore, perforated into caverns, and others hollowing into

recesses, where the verdant lawn, fringed with shrubs, finds its way through their breaks, and court your approach by a display of internal scenery.

Near the entrance of this peninsula stand the ruins of Mucrus Abbey, encircled by venerable ash trees, which, in unison with the scene, cast a solemn gloom over the precincts. The walls of the church, its lofty tower, and a great part of the Abbey, still remain in tolerable preservation; containing a small quadrangle, with cloisters round it, and a noble yew tree in the center, which covers the whole area with its shade.

The situation of this religious retreat, so favourable to the objects of a contemplative life, does justice to the choice of the founders; such a sequestered scite, where the west wind roaring over the wide expanse of the lake, mingling its murmurs with the deep toned vespers, must have nurtured the gloomy ideas congenial to a monastic state.

The character appropriate to places of this kind, is often destroyed by false taste, in neatly dressing the scite as a garden scene; but in a ruin, the reigning features are solitude and neglect, and the embellishments of shorn lawns and walks through flowering shrubs are alien ideas.—Mr. Herbert, the proprietor, has here acted judiciously in leaving the precincts of the Abbey in a characteristic state; the brambles and nettles are cleared sufficiently to give an easy access to the different parts of the building, but nothing more; indeed the heaps of skulls and bones thrown from the gaping tombs, give a striking and perhaps too offensive a picture of mortality.

This Abbey, originally named Irrelagh, was founded by Donald, son of Thady M'Carthy, in the year 1440, for Conventual Franciscans, and re-edified by the Roman Catholics in 1602, but soon after permitted to go to ruin.

Mr. Herbert has carried on, with the same correct taste, his improvements in the peninsula, consisting of a simple walk winding through the woods and rocks of this enchanting spot, where alternately the great Lake on the right, enriched by its islands, and the smaller Lake of Mucrus on the left, with its accompaniments of mountain scenery, give the most pleasing variety to a walk of two miles, carried through shrubberies of arbutus, holly, &c. to Camillan Point, near the entrance of the river which communicates with the Upper Lake.

Mucrus Lake is bounded on the east and south by the barren mountains of Mangerton and Turk, both of which, rising in solemn grandeur from the water, present their gray sides in contrast to the wooded and cultivated scenes on the opposite shore.—Near the top of Mangerton is the remarkable Lake, called the Devil's Punch Bowl, formed in a cavity resembling the crater of an ancient volcano; from this a stream taking its rise rolls down the mountain, and falls in a cascade, of picturesque appearance, into Mucrus Lake.

The peninsula of Mucrus, and two small islands, Brickeen and Dinish, separate nearly the Lake of Mucrus from the great Lake, leaving only very narrow passages of communication between those islands; they are both covered with wood, and serve as resting places to the deer which descend from Glona at the dawn of day to feed on the lawns of Mucrus; and here too they often shelter themselves when

roused by the hunters, and driven from their more secret haunts in the mountains.—As you clear the islands above-mentioned a most striking view presents itself; the mountains, upon a near approach, exhibiting an awful and majestic scenery, with all its bold irregularities of surface and outline.—In the center of them a deep chasm, enclosing the river which connects the upper and lower Lakes, more particularly arrests the attention, and excites the curiosity of the traveller to explore its winding course; nor is it disappointed during the whole passage of four miles, in which nature displays her charms in a succession of wild and interesting scenes.—In some places impending mountains hang their shaggy sides in gloomy grandeur over the abyss; in others they recede and leave foregrounds, where rocks, in infinite variety of forms, and enriched by the arbutus and other wild growths of the forest, form the most picturesque groups; whilst the little purling streams, which issue from the woody dells and gullies of the mountains, give life and spirit to every part.

Soon after entering the strait, the navigation is interrupted for about fifty yards by rocks, over which the boats must be dragged; but the trouble arising from this delay is recompensed by the time it gives to survey more minutely the scene, which is not one of the least picturesque on the voyage. A bridge of simple and rude construction is thrown over the cataract, for the convenience of the cow-herds, who follow their young cattle through these wild regions, and which, with its accompaniments of rocks, trees and shrubs, aided by a grand back-ground of mountain, broke into masses, form a charming composition.

But the object which excites most the general attention is a pyramidical rock, which rises to a considerable height immediately from the water about the middle of the strait.—It is known by the name of

The Eagle's Nest, its summit being a secure retreat for those birds of prey to rear their young brood; and which, rising nobly out of a bosom of wood with awful majesty, presents its rugged and impending cliffs to view, and produces on the mind a delightful sensation of admiration and pleasure.—Company are usually amused during their stay on this spot by discharges from a paterara placed on an opposite bank, the effect of which is surprising, from the report being echoed from rock to rock through the great surrounding amphitheatre of mountains, dying away and again reviving, till it finally expires in hollow murmurs.

The river, in a bold bend, washing the base of the rock, conducts you to the Upper Lake after a passage of about two miles, bounded on the right by a mountainous ridge, which, from its figure and inclination, is with propriety called the Great Range. Near the upper end of this is one of the finest musical echoes in the world;—the spot where it resides is a hollow bosom in the mountain, covered on all sides with trees; the sounds are reverberated from the several parts of it, and are softened upon every repetition, so as to terminate in the sweetest cadences; a single horn produces a concert, being multiplied into as many instruments as there are echoes; these mellowing in their tones from the original notes of the leading instrument, to the dying falls of the last repetitions, and mingling together in a wild but harmonious confusion, afford the finest specimen of natural music.

The Upper Lake, which is entered by a narrow pass called Colman's Eye, stretches east and west about three miles, but does not exceed one mile in breadth.—The line of the shore is very various; in some places broken by a projecting promontory, in others by rocky islands, which have a good effect in the composition by connecting the parts.—In a few instances it opens into capacious bays, which,

winding through the mountains, leave full scope to the imagination. Ghirmeen, one of the most considerable of these mountains, forms a right angle with the great range, and bounds the Lake to the north; it is partially covered with trees, and on the whole has rather a pleasing than a bleak appearance. Arbutus bay is the finest it affords; it derives its name, as well as a great share of its beauty, from an island contiguous to it.—M'Gilly Cuddy's Ricks take their rise from Ghirmeen, and encircling a valley to the west of the Lake, form an extensive amphitheatre.—These mountains are grand, and broken into the most irregular shapes imaginable; and their highest pinnacle, called Currane a Toohill, is by far the highest ground in Ireland, being three thousand four hundred and five feet above the level of the sea.

N. B. The elevation of the Lake above the sea is about thirty-five feet.

The southern boundary of the Lake is formed by a range of high mountains; Cahirnee, which joins the Ricks, is the largest of them; its surface is rocky and destitute of wood, but towards the eastern angle it terminates in a sloping bank, which forms one side of the Glyn of Derrycuniha.—This Glyn gradually contracting as it retires from the Lake, loses itself in another still more extensive.—Its side on the north is well wooded, and affords a delightful repose to the eye after the reiterated mountain prospects;—the Kavoge, a considerable stream, rolls through the centre, tumbling down a rocky channel where it forms a variety of lesser falls.—Crum a Glaun joins Derrycuniha in forming the east confines of this Lake, and although in no part lofty, is a considerable mountain; its sides are covered, particularly to the south, with a luxuriant coppice to the water's edge, and its foot is washed, for a considerable length, by a narrow confined bay, (lying parallel to the river) which leads to the water-fall at Esknamucky.

The Purple Mountain, though not immediately touching upon the Lakes, is an object of curiosity not to be passed over; it rises from behind the great range in a conical shape, and strongly characterised by its deep indigo colour;—it is said to abound with a kind of heath found in no other part of the country, which produces purple berries, but receives its prevailing tinct from another herb used by the natives in dying.

The upper Lake contains eight islands, which are all worthy of notice;—the Oak Islands, or Rosa Burkree, separated only in winter, are the most considerable, and lie in the north-east part of the Lake, nearly opposite the entrance; their rocky sides are covered with arbutus and other shrubs, and their interior with well grown oaks. Arbutus Island lies in a bay to the west of the entrance, its shape pyramidal, and covered with strawberry trees. In the latter end of October they appear in high beauty, many of their bells and blossoms still remaining; the fruit on some just forming and on others nearly ripe, the same bough often exhibits all their varieties. The ordinary height of the tree is ten or twelve feet; but here you meet with those of a happier growth, which rise from eighteen to near thirty feet. The blossom is shaped like a goblet, and the fruit nearly spherical; it is at first a pale yellow, which deepens as it advances in ripeness, and gradually gives place to a rich scarlet; it equals a large garden strawberry in size.

The remaining islands, to the number of six, lie together in a cluster at the west end of the Lake, about half-a-mile from the shore; each of them is a pleasing object in itself, and, united, they form a most beautiful group, as connected with the grand scenery of the surrounding mountains. They are all

well cloathed with wood, which rises from bold broken crags, in many places overhanging the Lake. The fine timber which adorned the upper Lake some years ago is now mostly cut down; its woody parts consist now chiefly of coppice, which gives, in some degree, the effect of timber at a distance; but in the foreground, on a nearer approach, we want the aged oaks, with their shadowy branches, to give character correspondent to the grandeur of the mountain scene.—On the banks of the Kavoge a room has been erected by Lord Kenmare, for the convenience of company who visit the Lake, and who usually bring refreshments with them, as the voyage to the upper Lake employs a whole day; for after having given a less share of attention to the objects, of which we have drawn a fainter description in this narrative than they deserve, a long summer's day scarcely gives time to reach Killarney again before the night is advanced.

Objects desirable in themselves derive new beauties from their position with respect to others; and even such as excite no pleasing emotions, (when viewed singly) have often an agreeable effect in combination; so that it is necessary (in your own mind) to class them with taste, and consider them from points where they do not run into a perplexing confusion.

The views of the lower Lake of Killarney, from the northward, are the most descriptive of its beauties; they extend from Lord Kenmare's park to the ruins of Aghadoe, beyond which the open between Glenna and Turk is lost to the eye, and the expanse to the distant mountains precluded from view.—There are situations more distant on this northern line that afford fine views, for approaching the Lake in this direction, after traversing dreary wastes, and arriving at a spot where the first appearance of a

long-wished for object presents itself, the eye naturally feels relieved, and often conceives a partiality for the first interview.—But description requires a more intimate acquaintance, as the foreground of the distant picture would occupy two-thirds of the view, and reduce the magnitude of the interesting parts of the scene before you.

The view (*No. 1.*) is taken between the two points, Lord Kenmare's park and Aghadoe. The range of mountains in this print commence on the left with part of Mangerton, descends to Turk, shews the open to the Eagle's Nest and upper Lake, and retiring to Glena, conducts the eye nearly to the western extremity of the Lake—it shews the situation from that point of the principal islands on both sides of Ross, and forms altogether a beautiful and striking picture.

The eastern view (*No. 2.*) is taken from the elevated banks on the south of the river Flesk; Glena mountain rises in the centre, and gently recedes to the western confines of the Lake; Ross Castle and Island are principals next the water; the grounds to the left are Cahirnane, and those to the right Killarney, with part of the northern hills.

The south-east view (*No. 3.*) is taken from the west-side of the high road, between Mangerton and Turk mountains; it looks down upon the objects, so as to comprehend within the view, Turk Lake, Mucrus Peninsula, and the entire boundary of the lower Lake from Glena to Killarney, extending to Dunlow Castle, and terminating with the Dingle mountains.

Returning to Killarney through the village of Cloghereen, you have a distant view of Mucrus Abbey (*Plate No. 4.*), its east side presents itself supported by venerable trees, with Turk, the Eagle's Nest, and Glenna mountains combined as a back-ground.

To give a perfect idea of the great Lake, and the objects which surround it, the western view near Dunlow Castle (*No. 5.*) is absolutely necessary, as it comprehends the northern and eastern range, with Mangerton, and the more distant mountains in that direction.

The description of this boundary being completed, there are two interior views (among a variety of others) that claim our notice; that from the delightful island of Innisfallen is the first we arrive at (*Plate No. 6.*). It opens to a beautiful bay, formed on one side by Ross Island, and on the other by the Continent towards Killarney. It is ornamented on its surface by the rock called O'Donahue's Prison and Cherry Island, and bounded by Ross Castle, with the mountains called the Paps, and Glanfleek in the distance.

(*Plate No. 7.*) represents the front view of O'Sullivan's Cascade before described.

(*Plate No. 8.*) the passage to the old Weir Bridge from Dinis Island.

(*Plate No. 9.*) shews the objects on both sides of the river to the Eagle's Nest.

And (*Plate No. 10.*) a view of that beautiful and stupendous rock.

It is difficult to decide on the points of view that shew the upper Lake of Killarney to most advantage.—After passing the Eagle's Nest (if you ascend Turk) you have before you a reach of the river for two miles in length, terminated by the Lake and its surrounding mountains; but further on, and more to the east, the expanse of water appears to greater advantage, and the Ricks (a very prominent feature in the scenery of this Lake) present their magnificent crest to view. (*Plate 11.*)

To complete the idea of this wild and uncultivated assemblage of objects, a view from the south-west of the upper Lake is added, from whence you look back at the scenes you have passed and contemplate them in a new direction.—Ghirmeen on the left, with the rocky sloping end of Crum-a-gloun, form the boundaries to (*Plate 12.*) Turk, foreshortened, rises with majesty in the center, whilst the islands which occupy a part of the western expanse, by approaching the eye, enrich the composition, and permit a more minute examination of their beauties.

Additional Subscribers since the Printing of the former List.

Henry Vaughan Brooke, Esq.
 Samuel Boyse, Esq. Bishop's Hall, Waterford,
 Charles Henry Coote, Esq.
 Const. Cullen, Esq.
 William Campbell, Esq. Fairfield, Scotland,
 William Daniel, Esq.
 Gasper Erck, Esq.

The Hon. and Rev. William Dawson,
 Jos. Deane, Esq.
 Henry Arthur Herbert, Esq.
 Nathaniel Sneyd, Esq.
 Lieut. Colonel D. M. Woodward, 34th Regiment,
 Right Hon. Arthur Wolfe, his Majesty's Attorney General.

ERRATUM IN THE FORMER LIST.

For the Right Honourable John, read Arthur Wolfe, Attorney General.





N.º NORTH VIEW of the LOWER LAKE of KILLARNEY.

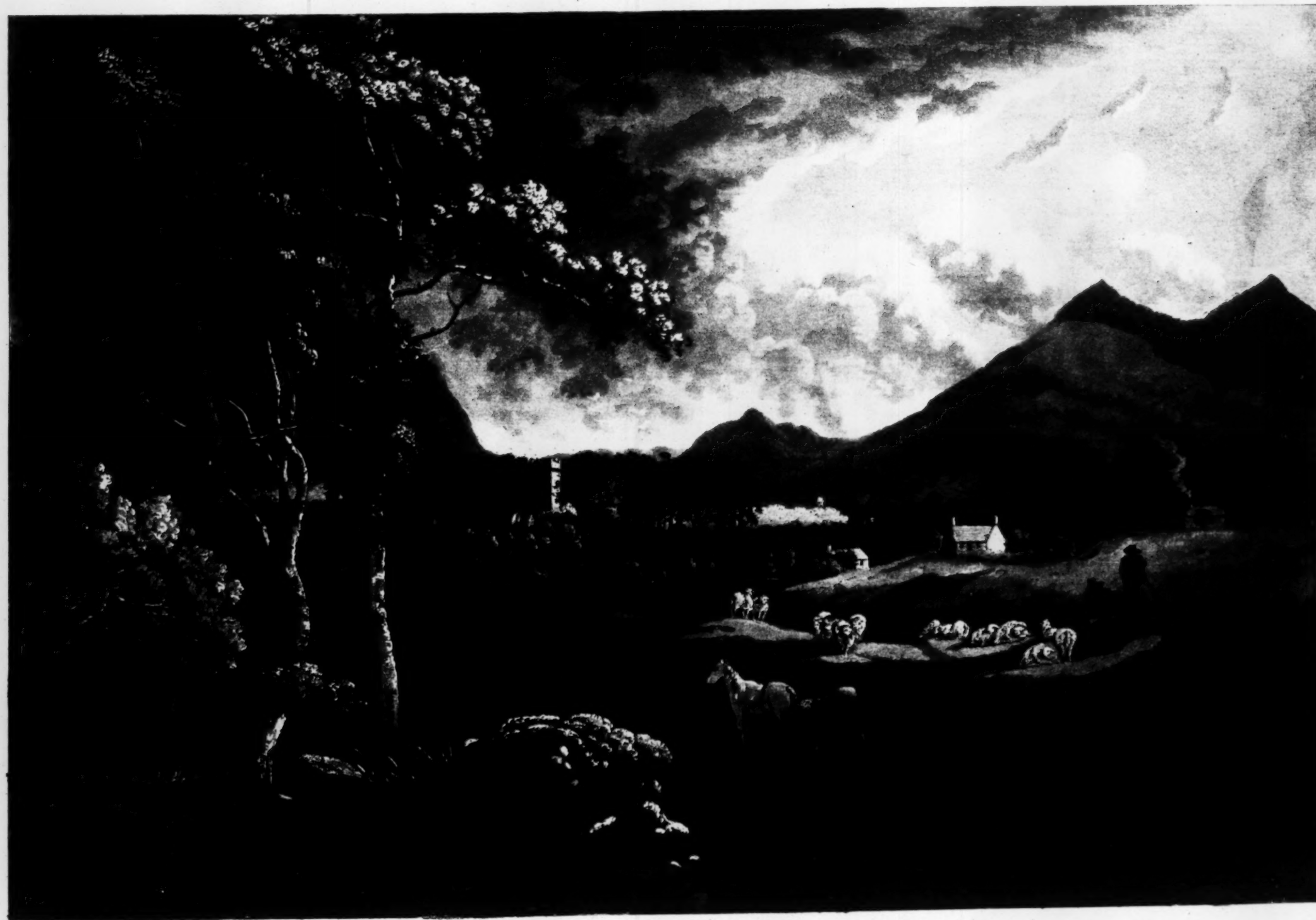
London Published by J. Fisher, June, 1798.



N^o 2 EAST VIEW *of the* LOWER LAKE *of* KILLARNEY.
London Published by J. Fisher June 1846



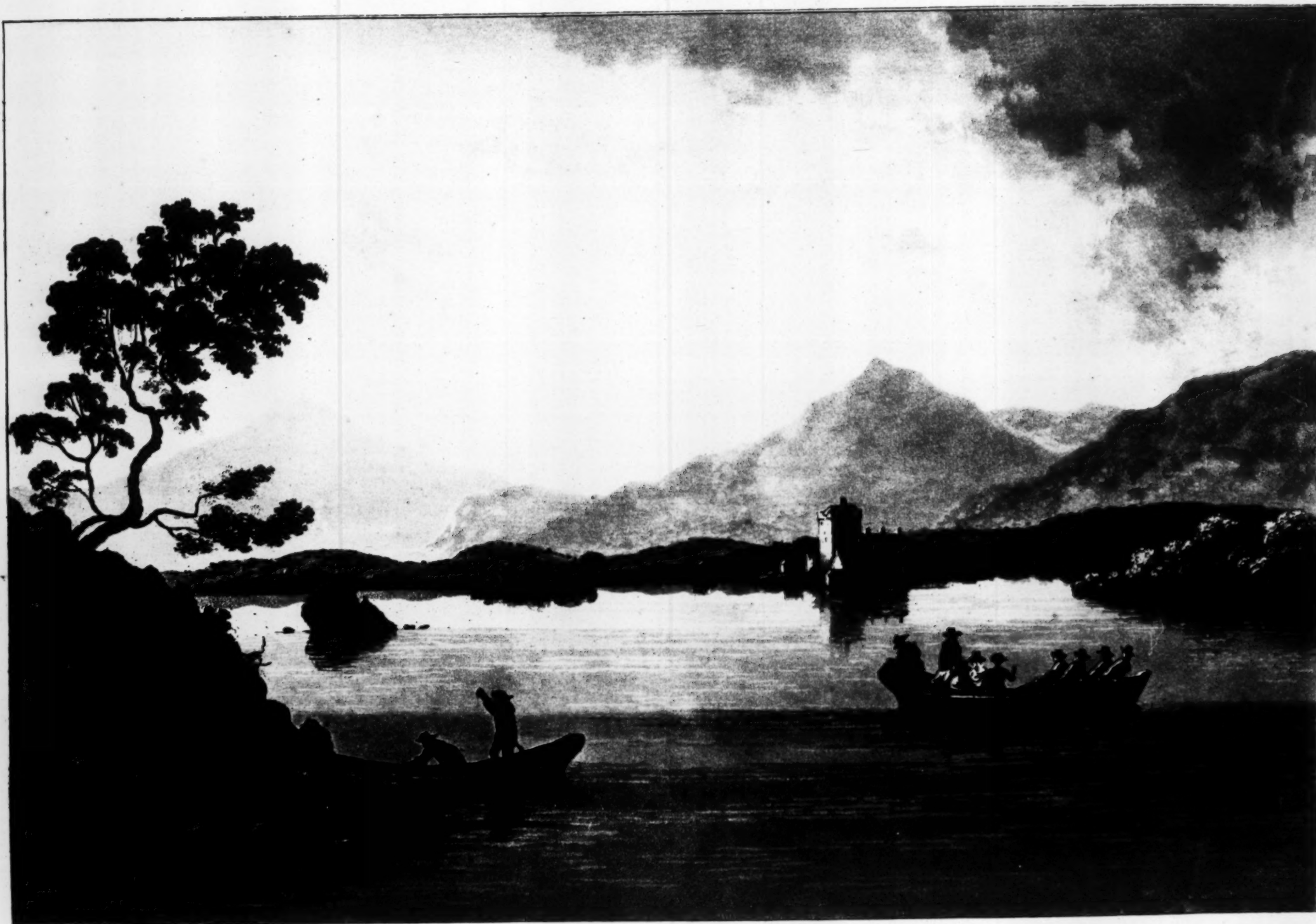
N^o 3 SOUTH EAST VIEW *of the* LOWER LAKE *of* KILLARNEY.
London Published by J. Fisher, June, 1796.



N^o 4 DISTANT VIEW of MUCRUS ABBEY
London Published by J. Fisher, June. 1790.



N^o. 3. WEST VIEW of the LOWER LAKE of KILLARNEY.
London Published by J. Fisher June 1796.



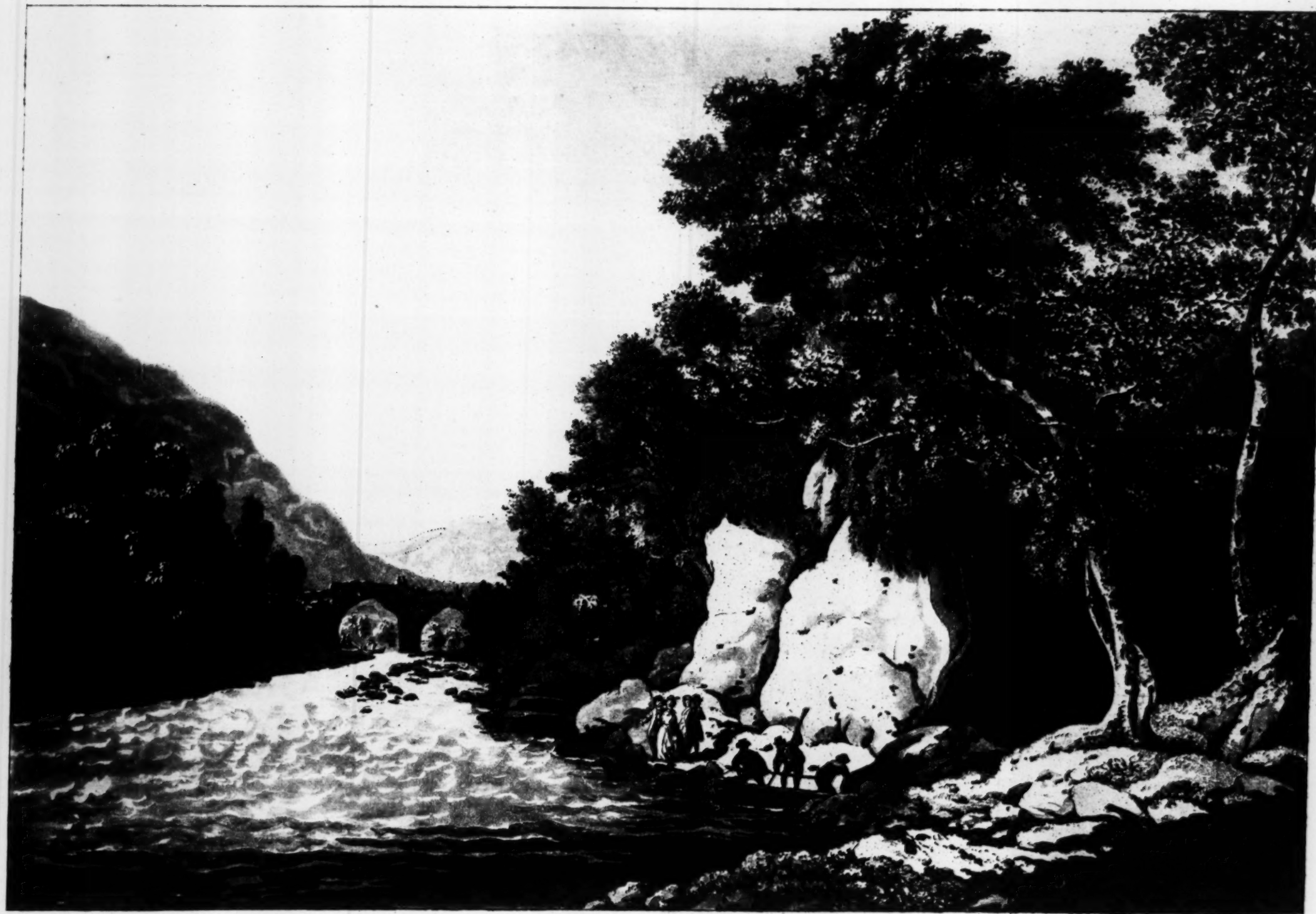
N^o 6. View of ROSS BAY &c. from INNISFALLEN ISLAND.

London Published by J. Fisher June 1796.



N^o 7 Front View of O SULLIVAN'S CASCADE, *near Killarney* *J. Fisher del.*

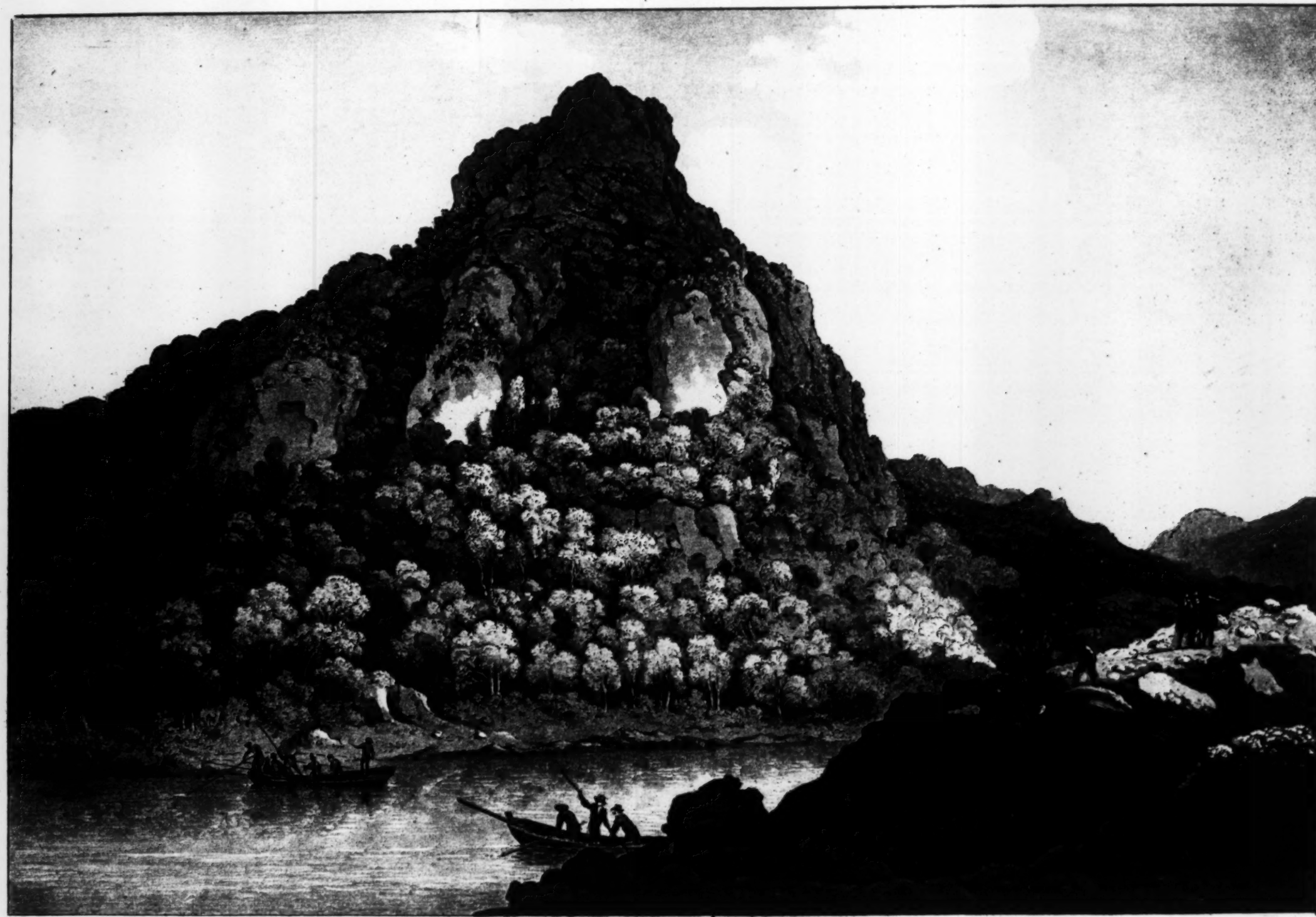
London Published by J. Fisher June 1796.



N^o 8 THE OLD WEIR BRIDGE on the RIVER between the LAKES of KILLARNEY
London Published by J. Fisher, June 1796.



N^o 9. *From the* OLD WEIR BRIDGE *to the* EAGLES NEST.
London Published by J. Fisher June 1790.



No The EAGLES NEST on the River between the LAKES of KILLARNEY.
London Published by J. Fisher, June, 1798.



N^o NORTH EAST VIEW of the UPPER LAKE of KILLARNEY.
London Published by J. Fisher, June 1796.



N^o 12 SOUTH EAST VIEW of the UPPER LAKE of KILLARNEY.
London Published by J. Fisher June 1796